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Message Text

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41
ACTION EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W
---------- 115754
P R 031321Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USIA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 8062

UNCLAS LISBON 5210

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS/PE
USIA WASHDC FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PO
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. OLYMPIC GAMES: POSTMORTEMS OF CONTROVERSY-FILLED OLYMPIC GAMES CONTINUED TO APPEAR IN PORTUGUESE PRESS. ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON COMMUNIST-BLOC DEFECTIONS, IN PARTICULAR NEMTSANOV'S AND SOVIET REACTION, SOVIET CANCELLATION OF DARTMOUTH SWIM MEET, THE CANADIAN TRANSLATOR'S ATTEMPTS TO FACILITATE DEFECTIONS, THE FREE UKRANIA DEMONSTRATIONS, LORD KILLANIN'S WARNINGS ABOUT RISING COSTS OF OLYMPICS, AND THE IOC VICE-PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ABOUT DANGERS OF POLITI-CIZATION. PRESS SAW OLYMPIC FUTURE DARKLY. AUGUST 3 ISSUE OF "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS", WHICH PRINTED LARGE EXCERPTS FROM HIGHLY CRITICAL "NEW YORK TIMES" EDITORIAL, WROTE ABOUT GAMES: "THE POLITICAL POLEMICS WHICH ALMOST KILLED THEM COULD STILL STRIKE A COUP DE GRACE TO THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT."

2. INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS: COMMENTS IN PHILADELPHIA BY BRAZILIAN BISHOP D. HELDER DA CAMARA AND JESUIT SUPERIOR GENERAL PEDRO ARRUPE -- WHICH REPORTEDLY STRESSED NEED FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER -- GAINED PRESS ATTENTION. REMARKS BY LATTER INSPIRED ONE HEADLINE: "UNITED STATES CHALLENGED TO LEAD WORLD WAR ON HUNGER."

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3. LAW OF THE SEA: OPENING OF LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE'S

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FIFTH SESSION WAS WIDELY REPORTED. AUGUST 2 "DIARIO POPULAR" NOTED A "NEW YORK TIMES" EDITORIAL WHICH SAID THAT THE CONFERENCE'S SUCCESS "COULD DEPEND ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION".

4. SAUDI-UNITED STATES WEAPONS TRADE: PORTUGUESE PRESS NOTED SAUDI ARABIAN ADDITION OF TOW, HAWK, AND SIDEWINDER MISSILES TO GROWING ARSENAL OF MAINLY U.S. SUPPLIED WEAPONS THAT HAVE COST SAUDI GOVERNMENT $6 BILLION THIS YEAR IN PURCHASES ALONE. DESPITE U.S. STATEMENTS THAT SALES WERE JUSTIFIED BY MILITARY THREAT POSED BY SOUTH YEMEN AND IRAQ, PRESS COMMENTARY CENTERED OM IRONY THAT, IN THE OPINIONS OF "POLITICAL EXPERTS", THE SAUDI MILITARY REALLY LOOKED AT IRAN--ANOTHER BIG U.S. WEAPONS CUSTOMER--AS PRINCIPAL THREAT.

5. CSCE ANNIVERSARY: PORTUGUESE PRESS CONSENSUS UPON ANNIVERSARY OF HELSINKI ACCORD SEEMED TO BE: NOT MANY RESULTS, BUT WELL WORTH THE EFFORT. "O DIA" INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COLUMNIST MANUEL RODRIGUES ALSO NOTED "NO PROGRESS TO REPORT" IN CIVIL RIGHTS AREA, BUT ADDED, "UNLESS ONE COUNTS THE FACT THAT SOVIET DISSIDENTS, LIKE SOLZHENITSYN AND AMALRIK, ARE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE INSTEAD OF BEING SENT, AS BEFORE, TO END THEIR DAYS IN A SIBERIAN CONCENTRATION CAMP."
HOWARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LAW OF THE SEA, OLYMPIC GAMES, MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON05210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760298-1119
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760893/aaaaddmi.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <07 DEC 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: SOPN, PO
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006